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Is Yet With Us

The three per cent sales tax, conceded obnoxious by the greater majority of people, is yet with us in North Carolina as a means of raising revenue.

We realize that revenue must be raised and that a popular tax for any would be a tax on the other man. As much as we know that the state must have its revenue for schools, roads and to pay interest and capital we cannot help but feel a keen sense of disappointment in the legislature and administration raising what was termed as an emergency two years ago when it was introduced for the first time to the taxpaying people of North Carolina. By raising the sales tax we mean the removing of exemptions, which consisted mainly of staple foods products and fertilizer.

Here is what our neighbor, The Ekin Tribune, says about raising or lowering taxes:

The effort to reduce the sales tax to two per cent failed of adoption. That is the history of such legislation. The tendency is to climb instead of going into reverse, and the climbing in this case was when the exemptions were removed. The tax on gasoline has been climbing from the start and somebody will die of heart failure when it takes a backward turn. It will be even so with the sales tax, because its extraction is painless, and because those least able to bear it, while in the majority, are not organized to fight it.

The sales tax is beneficial in that it raises revenue and from all the people, which should give them a sense of constitutional ownership and part in the government but it is basically wrong in that the burden is not evenly distributed according to ability to pay, a principle on which all successful taxes should be levied. It is true that the wealthy can buy more and it is also true that it takes just as many eats of some kind or other to keep a poor man alive as it does the millionaire and it takes just as many clothes to keep him from freezing.

Teachers' Salaries

Unless all signs fail the present legislature will raise salaries of teachers from 20 to 25 per cent. This is an accord with the popular demand on the part of public spirited citizens who would like to see standards of education raised.

Schools cannot advance beyond the character and ability of the teachers. Although there are other important factors, teachers are the backbone of the system of public education in North Carolina.

When conditions improved to some extent and salaries were boosted somewhat in industry there were many teachers who forsake the schoolrooms for better positions where they could work 12 months in the year instead of eight and at a larger figure.

Since industry is looking for people with ability and efficiency some of the best teachers were lost to the schools and this hurt the schools of the state. In this city two teachers resigned to accept better positions.

Teaching is a profession but this does not mean that a teacher is sworn to the schoolroom and that he or she must work for starvation wages. At the present teachers' salaries a teacher with dependents is not able to make enough in eight months to live on decently for 12 months and it is hard for a teacher to find employment during the four months' vacation. The boost of 20 or 25 per cent in pay is going to be well received.

Prof. C. B. Eller, county superintendent of schools, states that the salary checks he mails out each month are the most welcome mail that goes out from his office and if the checks are larger next year the extent of gratification will be greater on the part of the teachers.

A teacher must wear good clothes all the time, attend teachers' meetings and is naturally expected to subscribe to lots of magazines, buy books and in various other ways keep up with the times and keep himself well informed. Teaching is a costly profession and a part of a teacher's earnings must be spent continually in preparation.

Number Farms Increase

It is interesting to study the significance of the preliminary report of the farm census, showing that the number of farms in the county has increased 542 during the past five years. According to the census there are 5,667 farms in the county this year, as compared to 5,125 in 1930.

The mere fact that the number of farms has increased is interesting, especially when there has been an increase of more than 100 per year in our county.

No doubt the depression has had something to do with the increased number of farms. We have had no concerted back-to-the-farm movement in this vicinity and yet we have had many people move into Wilkes, some of them former residents, from other sections of the state and particularly the larger cities.

And also there is a growing tendency and desire for people, even those who are "well off" in material wealth, in cities to seek the noted "security" of farm ownership and to have something to "fall back on" should they fail utterly in business endeavor.

The more or less surprising element in the trend is that many who are seeking the farm are making at least some measure of success in their efforts to eke out an existence, although many of the farm families have had little or no previous experience. The family reared in the city faces hardships not anticipated when it moves to the soil without knowledge of farming.

To farm successfully takes an outlay of capital larger than many small business firms. Not one farmer out of 100 is able to start out with an adequate farm and all of its necessary equipment. He gathers his possessions by labor and barter and if he lives long enough and his farm is not foreclosed he has some chance of getting ready to farm before he answers the celestial summons.

THE BOOK the first line of which reads, "The Holy Bible," and which contains four great treasures. By BRUCE BARTON

JOHN THE BAPTIST

If one were to seek out the most unselfish hero of history it would be difficult to name another worthy to stand even as close second to John the Baptist. He inaugurated a great movement which he might very easily have utilized for his own use; just how great it was we can imagine from the fact that St. Paul, coming to Ephesus a full quarter of a century after the crucifixion of Jesus, found a little group of men who were still disciples of John and knew hardly anything about Jesus. We find the same situation existing in far-away Alexandria, and we know the potency of John's name from the fact that Jesus used it in the last week of His earthly life for His own protection. The priests, His hecklers and baiters, were silent when He spoke it, fearing the people "for all held John as a prophet."

Go back to the very beginnings of the Gospel: how did it start? By the preaching of John.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare the way before thee.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his path straight.

John made his camp by the banks of Jordan, clothed himself in skins and eating locusts and wild honey; and there he began to announce the coming of the kingdom of heaven and to call upon men to depart from sin. How did he know that the kingdom of heaven was at hand? Who told him to proclaim the dawn of a new day?

John's success was almost instantaneous. Crowds went out from the city to attend his meetings; he became a sort of fashionable fad, attracting not only the leaders of the smart set but a sufficient number of thoughtful and important people so that even the Pharisees began to give respectful attention.

One day an impressive committee went down the long winding road from Jerusalem to Jordan, and after putting up at the most reputable tavern in the vicinity and removing the traces of their travel they waited on John in solemn array and asked him to declare whether he was the Christ, and, if not, what honorable title they might confer upon him.

And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

He had his chance to claim the great place for himself and he refused. He was only a "voice crying in the wilderness," he said, the forerunner of a Greater One to follow.

Huey Long alleges there is a plot to thwart his share-the-wealth scheme. As far as we know, there always has been a plot, ever since the first man made the first nickel.—Boston Transcript.

The longest year imaginable would be the one before the 60th anniversary under the Townsend plan.—Louisville Times.

HONOR STUDENTS IN WILKESBORO SCHOOL FOR SIXTH MONTH

First grade: Britt Steelman, D. C. Waddell, Clark Davis, Edwin Brooks, Lenore Livingston, Annie Lee Perkins, Elizabeth Pharr, Boone Anderson, Betty McLean, Eloise Pardue, Sara Kate Webster, Evelyn Steele, Eugene Staley.

Second grade: Richard Reins, Clyde Warren, Ray Wiles, Ralph Jones, Bobby Smoak, Joyce Brooks, Ellen Combs, Frances Miller, Betty Linney, Osa Mathis, Maxine Rouse, Etta May Brooks, Douglas Dettor, Virginia McDuffie, Willie Joe Pierce.

Third grade: Mary Nell Morrison, Louise Anderson, Jewel Howard, Nancy Lee Yates, Victoria Roupe, Louis Dula, Stuart Blevins, G. E. Miller, Billy Craft, Robert Dennis, Lee Mayberry.

Fourth grade: Sara Brooks, Gladys Howell, Nell Hubbard, Marjorie Miller, Ruth Moseley, Barbara Ogilvie, Norma Smoak, Presley Blevins, Rufus Moseley.

Fifth grade: Joye Miller, Frances Willard.

Sixth grade: Helen Roberts, Elizabeth Eller, Rebecca Gentry, Fred Michael.

Seventh grade: Lorie Wright, Peggy Somers, Margaret Miller, Charlotte Harvell, Ernestine Mitchell, Baxter Davis.

Eighth grade: George Ogilvie, Hazel Earp, Beryl Pennell, Constance Smithy, Willie Mae Tevpaugh.

Ninth grade: T. G. Foster, Horace Minton, Madge Jennings.

Tenth grade: Willie Hamby, Don Michael, Marjorie Blevins, Lorene Guthrie, Annie Lee Jennings.

Eleventh grade: Carrine Bryhill, Bonnie Bumgarner, Helen Bumgarner, Floeta Church, Mozelle Davis, Annie Lo Ferguson.

COMPLIANCE OFFICER PLACED AT COLLEGE

North Carolina will have its own compliance officer this year to adjust controversial matters arising from the operation of the adjustment contracts. Dean I. O. Schaub has announced that Percy Bloxam has been located at State college by the AAA and that all matters relating to compliance with contracts will be handled by him.

This means that farmers who may have difficulty in securing rental and benefit payments on their contracts should take up the matter with their local farm agents; who in turn will transmit the information to the extension specialists in charge of the commodity concerned. These commodity men will then handle the matter with Washington through Mr. Bloxam.

NEWS REEL, March Release — by A. B. Chapin

CELESTIAL THRILLER: BUSINESS PICK-UP: YOUTH RESURGENT: PSYCHOLOGICAL REVERSION: LOCAL BOYS AND GIRLS ON STAGE AT LIBERTY. Includes illustrations and captions for each item.

Card of Thanks: We wish to express to our many friends our sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness and sympathy shown us during the illness and death of our wife and mother. CHAS. A. SINK AND FAMILY. Read Journal-Patriot ads.

The Book & Gift Shop MEZZANINE FLOOR—RHODES DAY FURNITURE CO. Suggests the Following Titles From Our Lending Shelf: COME AND GET IT, THE ELEVENTH HOUR, LOST HORIZON, SOUTH MOON UNDER, ROMANCE ON A CRUISE, SKIN DEEP. Rates: 10c for 3 days; 2c each additional day.

75 WANTED 75 Boys and Girls Between the Ages of 6 and 16 at the LIBERTY THEATRE TO TAKE PART IN THE "SCHOOL DAY FROLICS" Thursday and Friday, April 4-5. Any child between the ages of 6 and 16 who has talent for the stage... Tuesday, April 2nd, at 4 P. M.

Indigestion: Indigestion is a more or less general term which covers a multitude of sins. DR. E. S. COOPER CHIROPRACTOR—NERVE SPECIALIST OFFICE HOURS—10-12; 2-5; 6:30-7:30 Telephone 205-R Office Second Floor Gilreath's Shoe Shop

Why Risk a Badly Worn Roof? YOU never know when a badly worn roof will spring a leak. Wilkesboro Mfg. Co. ROOFINGS & SHINGLES STANDARD FOR OVER 60 YEARS